

No. 3247—San. 78-07-4, dated 10th October 1907.

It is hereby notified for general information that the places mentioned hereunder in the district of Shimoga will be deemed to be infected areas for the purposes of the Regulations issued with Notifications Nos. 9383—Mis. F. 21-96 and 9384—Mis. F. 21-96, dated the 10th February 1898, under the Epidemic Diseases Regulation:—

Place.	Taluk.
Balekoppa	Kumsi Sub-Taluk.
Kesavanakatte	Do

No. 3382—San. 103-07-2, dated 17th October 1907.

It is hereby notified for general information that the place mentioned hereunder in the district of Tumkur will be deemed to be an infected area for the purposes of the Regulations issued with Notifications Nos. 9383—Mis. F. 21-96 and 9384—Mis. F. 21-96, dated the 10th February 1898, under the Epidemic Diseases Regulation:—

Place.	Taluk.
Tumkur Town	Tumkur.

No. 3380—San. 34-07-2, dated 17th October 1907.

It is hereby notified for general information that the places mentioned hereunder in the district of Hassan will be deemed to be infected areas for the purposes of the Regulations issued with Notifications Nos. 9383—Mis. F. 21-96 and 9384—Mis. F. 21-96, dated the 10th February 1898, under the Epidemic Diseases Regulation:—

Place.	Taluk.
Bagur	Channarayapatna.
Mudnahalli	Do
Maruvanahalli	Do

No. 3283—San. 86-07-2, dated 17th October 1907.

The following letter No. 1275-84, dated the 17th August 1907, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, received with letter No. 966, dated the 18th September 1907, from the First Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, is republished for general information:—

The Scientific Commission which was appointed in 1905 to investigate the causation of plague has now completed the first stage of its labours, dealing with the etiology of the disease, and has arrived at conclusions of great practical importance. Some time must elapse before it is possible to publish an account of all the work done by the Commission, but I am directed to address you at once on those results of its careful and valuable researches which have a direct bearing on the measures to be taken for dealing with the epidemic.

2. From the point of view indicated above the outstanding conclusions are—

- (1) that bubonic plague is spread by infected rats;
- (2) that the vehicle of contagion between rat and rat and between rat and man is the rat flea; and
- (3) that the life of the plague germ in soil, the floors and walls of houses and the like is of short duration.

These conclusions show that many troublesome and expensive measures undertaken for the purpose of destroying the germ in houses may be abandoned; and they indicate that effort should be directed to prevent access to man of infected rats and their fleas, and to counteract the effects of the bites of infected fleas.

3. The Government of India recognise that the prevention of contact between man and infected rats and rat fleas is a problem the solution of which presents great difficulties. The construction of the vast majority of Indian houses favours infestation by rats; there is usually an ample food supply for them, and in many cases the people are not only themselves unwilling to destroy rats, but decline to afford any facilities for their destruction by others. These unfavourable conditions, however, are not always present and there is evidence which indicates that well-devised measures carried out persistently will largely reduce the number of rats and thus retard, if they do not completely prevent, the spread of plague. But it must be remembered that rats breed with great rapidity, and it follows that spasmodic and ill-directed efforts to exterminate them can have little effect on the prevalence of plague and may actually do harm by discrediting not only rat destruction but other measures also.

4. Apart from actual destruction there are other means of keeping down the number of rats. It is impossible to expect in the immediate future much improvement in the structure of houses, but in certain localities something might no doubt be done in this direction, while beneficial results may possibly be obtained by building in selected centres a few houses, suitable for the poorer classes, to serve as models of the type of residence which is best fitted to